

sighted two days earlier. Their white facial and neck parts with prominent black top were carefully observed through binoculars by all three of us. They repeatedly dived for food. I believe this species is rare in our area and

hence we would like to record its occurrence.

The same day and time we also observed a single Pied Harrier which was with us till almost 5.45 p.m.

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND-INDIA,  
108, RAMDASPETH,  
NAGPUR-440 010,  
December 24, 1985.

AMRUT DHANWATAY

11. ON THE CAPTURE OF WILSON'S STORM PETREL *OCEANITES*  
*OCEANICUS OCEANICUS* (KHUL) FROM THE SOUTH  
EAST COAST OF INDIA

During the fifth cruise on board FORV *Sagar Sampada* from Madras to Cochin in July, 1985 I caught two Wilson's Storm Petrels when they landed on the deck at dusk, probably attracted to the ship by the deck lights. When caught they did not make any attempt to escape due to failing light. They were active and pecked when the hand was taken near them.

The birds were of bulbul size with long slender legs with distinct yellow webbed toes. Colour of the birds was sooty black with a conspicuous white patch above the tail and pale wing bar. The beak was somewhat sharp with a small fleshy projection over it at the base.

According to Salim Ali and Ripley (1981)

it is one of the most numerous bird species in the world. It breeds in Antarctic and Subantarctic Islands wandering north in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans in summer, to Europe, Arabia, India, New Guinea, Japan, California etc. Not uncommon along the coast of the Persian Gulf, Makaran and Sind. It is also recorded from the Konkan coast and also from Bombay. Curiously enough it is not recorded from the northern parts of Bay of Bengal. It is now recorded from the South East Coast of India. They must have come from the Sri Lankan coast for they are known to visit Sri Lanka chiefly during the monsoon season.

I am most grateful to Dr. Salim Ali for kindly identifying the bird.

MADRAS RESEARCH CENTRE  
OF CMFRI, MADRAS - 600 105,  
December 28, 1985.

D. B. JAMES

REFERENCE

ALI, SALIM & RIPLEY, S. D. (1981): Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan. Vol. 1. Oxford University Press. 384 pp.